

complicated than that, but there has been a concern that it's too high a standard and that we should lower that to include the possibility or the imminent threat that may exist with an individual so that you don't have to wait till a terrible occurrence happens but that you can anticipate that a degradation has occurred in the mental health of an individual and that some intervention is needed to head off severe problems. That's the essence of the issue, but there's a disagreement on how to achieve that goal which has been felt to be mutually desirable by a number of different groups, but, again, how we achieve it has not been reached in terms of a consensus. So we are asking that that particular section be stricken from the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator...thank you, Senator Wesely. We have an amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely had an amendment printed last year. Senator, I had a note you want to withdraw that one. Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the committee amendments. The amendment may be found on page 155 of your Legislative Journal. (AM2353.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, very briefly, Mr. Speaker. Because this bill, LB 678, deals with the whole Mental Health Commitment Act in the area of mental health, we had another piece of legislation advanced by the committee last year, LB 704. It was advanced on a six to zero vote and this is that piece of legislation being amended into this bill. What we were looking at there is a question of a judge and the alternatives that they have available, and again, a handout I've got describes the amendment. When they decide that...when they determine the treatment a person should receive who is found not guilty by reason of insanity, when...this particular problem that we've had is that it seems the only option the judge has is a commitment to the Lincoln Regional Center and there are other perhaps ways that we can deal with the problem. And so we want to provide for the option to participate in inpatient or outpatient treatment under the jurisdiction of the judge so there can be continual oversight, that there may be a mechanism by which we can deal with this problem that may be preferable to commitment to the Lincoln Regional Center. We also provide for, in this amendment, and this is not LB 704, but this also deals